

Amendment

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Please amend the claims to the following:

1.(currently amended) A gripper, comprising:

first and second pairs of forceps, each pair of forceps including an inner leg and an outer leg, each leg having an upper end and a lower gripping end, wherein the inner leg and outer leg of each pair of forceps are connected together adjacent to their upper ends and define a gripper at their lower ends, the lower gripping ends of said inner and outer legs of each pair of forceps being movable relative to each other within a plane of motion;

a connection joining together the inner legs of the first and second pairs of forceps in an orientation such that both pairs of forceps operate in the same plane of motion, which extends through the gripping ends of both pairs of forceps, wherein there is a space between the upper ends of the inner legs through which a user may insert a forefinger.

2.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 1, wherein said connection is adjacent to the lower ends of said inner legs, and further comprising a spacer mounted on said inner legs above said connection to hold the inner legs apart above the connection.

3.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 2, wherein said spacer includes a ring fixed to both of said inner legs.

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4.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 1, wherein said connection is a spacer, holding said inner legs apart.

5.(original) A gripper, comprising:

first and second pairs of forceps, each pair of forceps including inner and outer legs; a hinge joint connecting together said inner and outer legs, said hinge joint restricting the relative motion between the inner and outer legs to motion within a plane, and each of said inner and outer legs defining a lower, gripping end, wherein the gripping end of each outer leg is movable inwardly, toward the gripping end of its respective inner leg within said plane of relative motion; and

a spacer connected to the inner legs of said first and second pairs of forceps above their gripping ends, said spacer holding said inner legs apart a fixed distance and holding said pairs of forceps in an orientation such that both pairs of forceps have the same plane of relative motion.

6.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 5, wherein said inner legs are also joined together at a connecting point adjacent their gripping ends.

7.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 6, wherein said spacer includes a ring secured to both of said inner legs.

8.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 6, wherein said spacer holds the inner legs apart approximately the width of a human forefinger.

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9.(currently amended) A gripper, comprising:

first and second pairs of forceps, each pair including an inner leg and an outer leg,
each of said legs including an upper end and a gripper end;
a connection fixing the inner legs of said first and second pairs of forceps relative
to each other adjacent to their gripper ends so that the inner legs lie between the outer
legs; wherein the upper ends of said inner legs are spaced apart approximately the
distance of a human forefinger.

10.(previously presented) A gripper as recited in claim 9, and further comprising a
spacer mounted on the inner legs above said connection so as to maintain a fixed spacing
between said inner legs.

11.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 10, wherein the legs of each pair of forceps
are movable relative to each other in a plane of motion, and wherein said connection
orients said first and second pairs of forceps relative to each other so that they both
operate in the same plane of motion.

12-15 (cancelled)

16.(original) A gripper as recited in claim 4, wherein said inner legs are further
connected together adjacent their gripper ends.